

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

May 1, 2012

For several years, I have been advocating that the position of Los Angeles County Assessor should be an appointed position, rather than an elected role. Regardless of the outcome of the District Attorney's Office investigation or the Board of Supervisor's audit of the Assessor's office, the issues being examined reinforce my long-standing view that the constituents of Los Angeles County would be best served by an appointed Assessor.

The role of Assessor has a huge impact on the lives of the residents and businesses of this County. He or she impacts what is for many taxpayers their most important asset. For the county and city governments, the taxes that are generated from the funds the Assessor oversees are the primary source of revenue to support critical services.

In addition to the extensive experience and specialized training that is required to be the Assessor, the position also demands the highest level of integrity. There cannot be even a suggestion of external pressures or influence-peddling. A strong, reliable, non-political manager must administer this critical function in order to meet the expectations of the constituents and government entities which rely on its honest, competent and prudent oversight.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors directs the Chief Executive Office, in conjunction with County Counsel, to investigate the process to amend the Los Angeles County charter to render the position of Assessor as an appointed, rather than elected, position.

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